Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 IO-10 L-02

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /057 W ----- 056491

P R 171424Z APR 75 FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4125 INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS EAIR EAID PFOR ET US

SUBJECT: EAL, THE DIRG AND TWA: DENOUEMENT?

REF: ADDIS 4391 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

- 1. COL. SEMRAT MEDHANE'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING WAS ANNOUNCED ON RADIO ETHIOPIA'S AMHARIC NEWSCAST (WTH A SERIES OF OTHER APPOINTMENTS TO BE REPORTED IN SEPTEL) AT 1400 HOURS LOCAL APRIL 17.
- 2. IRONICALLY, EAL'S EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION (UNION) REACHED A FORMAL POSITION IN SUPPORT OF COL. SEMRAT'S CONTINUING LEADERSHIP AS GENERAL MANAGER OF EAL. THE EMPLOYEE ASSOCIATION'S POSITION IN SUPPORT OF SEMRAT HAS BEEN RECRODED IN A LETTER TO THE DIRG SCHEDULED TO BE TRANSMITTED TODAY.
- 3. THE SENIOR TWA ADVISER TO ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES INFORMS US THAT THREE DAYS AGO HE RECORDED TWA'S VIEWS IN AN OFFICIAL WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO THE DIRG. THIS COMMUNICATION ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSED SEMRAT'S TRANSFER TO OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
- ${\tt 4.}$ CAA ADMINISTRATOR BG TEFESSE AYALEW SUCCEEDS COL. SEMRAT AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERAL MANAGER OF EAL.

5. TWA/NEW YORK HAS BEEN INFORMED OF THESE ACTIONS AND, PRESUMABLY, IS INFORMING SEMRAT THEREOF TODAY. IT SEEMS LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT SEMRAT WILL ANNOUNCE THE NEWS OF HIS TRANSFER TO THE EMERGENCY IATA EXECSEC MEETING CONVENING IN MONTREAL TOMORROW, APRIL 18.

6. COMMENT: CONCEIBABLY, THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE IN WRITING BY WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE A HEALTHY MAJORITY OF THE ETHIOPIAN EAL EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION TO THE DIRG COULD STILL CAUSE THE LATTER TO REVERSE ITSELF. HOWEVER, CLEARLY, THIS IS FAR LESS LIKELY IN THE WAKE OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEMRAT'S NEW APPOINTMENT. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 17 APR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS04580

Document Number: 1975ADDIS04580 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750134-1064

From: ADDIS ABABA Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750440/aaaabkql.tel Line Count: 74 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EB

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Classification: Limited Official Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 ADDIS 4391
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 05 MAY 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: EAL, THE DIRG AND TWA: DENOUEMENT?
TAGS: PINS, EAIR, EAID, PFOR, ET, US, TWA, ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006